

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 14-19 are allowed.

Claims 13, 22, and 24-26 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,102,829 to Cohn.

Claims 3, 5, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cohn in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,048 to Selna.

Finally, claims 20, 21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cohn in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,481 to Murphy et al.

The Rejection of Claims 1-7

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Cohn. Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cohn in view of Selna. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn because Cohn does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1. Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a package housing that includes “a bottom surface having a plurality of posts extending therefrom” (emphasis added). At least this feature is neither taught nor suggested by Cohn.

In reference to independent claim 1, page 3 of the Office Action dated January 29, 2003 states that “Cohn’s figure 7 further shows a plurality of protrusion portions 3” formed along the pins and contacting the bottom surface of the base 2 . . .” (emphasis added). The Office Action then concludes that the protrusion portions represent the plurality of posts recited in independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree with this conclusion.

The Applicants understand the so-called protrusion portions shown in Fig. 7 of Cohn to be metal collars that form portions of the pin structures. Indeed, as shown in Fig. 1 of Cohn, the collars surround the pins and are in contact with the bottom surface of base 2. As reproduced above, the Office Action also notes that the protrusion portions are “contacting” the bottom surface of base 2. Hence, Cohn fails to teach or suggest “posts” forming part of the package housing and “extending” from the bottom surface of the housing.

Furthermore, Cohn fails to teach or suggest a die package having, among other things, a reference voltage plane “electrically coupled to a contact that is at least partially exposed externally of the package housing,” as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added). Instead, Fig. 7 of Cohn simply discloses partially exposed sheet 16 (*i.e.*, heat sink 16). The heat sink 16 shown in Fig. 7 is not connected to any contacts that are partially exposed externally of the housing. Hence, Cohn does not teach or suggest a (i) “contact” and (ii) a reference voltage plane “electrically connected” to a contact, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that Cohn does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-7 are allowable at least because of their dependence from independent claim 1 and the reasons set forth above. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

The Rejections of Claims 8-12, 20, 21, and 23

Claims 8, 9, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Cohn. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cohn in view of Selna. Moreover, claims 20, 21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cohn in view of U.S. Murphy et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

With respect to independent claims 8 and 20, Applicants assert that the applied references fail to teach or suggest “a ground plane grid in the base, wherein said electrically-conductive pins are electrically insulated from and pass through the ground plane grid,” as recited in claims 8 and 20 (emphasis added). Page 3 of the Office Action states that “the pins 3’ (e.g., the second pins from the left side and from the right side of the base 2 in figure 7 attached) are electrically insulated from and pass through ground plane grid 16.” Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of Cohn.

Heat sink 16 depicted in Fig. 7 of Cohn does not represent a “grid.” Instead, Cohn discloses heat sink sheet 16 with a single row of clearance holes 19 formed at the periphery of base 2. In fact, in referring to the “second pins from the left side and from the right side of the base 2 in figure 7,” the Office Action admits as much. As such, the applied references fail to teach or suggest a “a ground plane grid in the base, wherein said electrically-conductive pins are electrically insulated from and pass through the ground plane grid,” as recited in independent claims 8 and 20.

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that Cohn does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 8. Applicants further submit that Cohn and Murphy et al., whether taken singly or combined, do not teach each or suggest each feature of independent claim 20. Finally, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 9-13 and 21-26 are allowable at least because of their dependence from independent claims 8 and 20, respectively, and the reasons set forth above. Hence, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8, 9, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and the rejection of claims 20, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of claims 1-13 and 20-26. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues

outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact

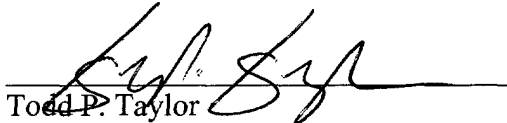
Applicants' undersigned representative at 202.739.5271 to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.1 36(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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